

The following newsletter will be sent weekly, and include the latest information on health information technology and the federal stimulus funding.

The newsletter is organized as follows:

- Update
- Word on the Street
- Timeline
- Resources

All old newsletters can be found on the [website](#).

If you have any questions/comments about the content of the newsletter please direct your inquiry to Andie Martinez, Associate Director of Policy at amartinez@cpc.org.

Update

- I. Electronic Health Records and Meaningful Use
- II. Health Information Exchange
- III. Regional Extension Center
- IV. EHR Loan Fund
- V. Workforce
- VI. Telehealth and Broadband

I. Electronic Health Records and Meaningful Use

Federal: There are many questions about who qualifies for EHR incentive funding. The following outlines the eligible professionals. *CPCA would like to thank Manatt for laying out the guidelines in an easy to understand format.*

First, the professional must qualify as an eligible professional (EP). Only the following types of professionals qualify as EPs:

- Physicians
- Dentists
- Certified nurse midwives
- Nurse practitioners
- Physician assistants to the extent they practice in an RHC that is led by a physician assistant or practice in an FQHC that is led by a physician assistant.

Second, incentive payments are available to only three categories of EPs:

- Those who are not hospital-based and have at least 30 percent of their patient volume attributable to Medicaid patients.
 - Those who are pediatricians and are not hospital-based and have at least 20 percent Medicaid patient volume.
 - Those who practice primarily in FQHCs or RHCs and have at least 30 percent
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of their patient volume attributable to “needy individuals,” which include Medicaid recipients, SCHIP recipients, patients furnished uncompensated care, and patients whose charges are reduced by the provider based on income considerations.

II. Health Information Exchange

State: The California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) released the draft Request for Information (RFI) for Potential HIE Governance Entity last Wednesday, August 12. They have given stakeholders until Monday, August 17 COB to provide feedback for the RFI. CPCA, with the guidance of the HIE workgroup, is providing feedback- (see resources).

To note, CHHS specifically requires that whichever nonprofit organization apply to be the Governance Entity not operate or have a financial stake with a HIE or HIO.

CPCA: CPCA is submitting comments to the RFI.

III. Regional Extension Center

No information at this time.

IV. EHR Loan Fund

State: CPCA staff met with CHFFA the week of August 10. CHFFA staff informed CPCA that they are working under the assumption that the Office of the National Coordinator will not be releasing funds for the EHR Loan Fund, as previously expected. CHFFA staff were informed of this through email communications with federal staff.

The HITECH Act, which created the EHR Loan Fund language, made part of the ONC’s \$2 billion in discretionary funding available for an EHR Loan Fund, however, the fund was not mandated. The ONC may fund EHR Loan Funds in the future but it plans on focusing their limited resources on the HIE and RECs.

However, CHFFA is committed to making funds, specifically the HELP II program, available for those clinics that do not have access to capital for the acquisition of EHRs. They are interested in working with CPCA to incentive clinics to use HELP II funds for this purpose. CHFFA suggested that they would lower their current 3% interest rate if that worked as an incentive.

CPCA: CPCA will work with CHFFA to make the HELP II Loan Program as beneficial to clinics seeking to access the funds as possible.

V. Workforce

No information at this time.

VI. Telehealth and Broadband

No information at this time.

Clinic Landscape Survey due Friday, August 21 COB!

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Timeline

2009	Present	CPCA drafting REC concept paper/business plan
	August 20	CHHS releases HIE Governance Entity RFI
	August 21	CPCA HIT Landscape Survey Due
	August 26	CHHS releases RFI for organizations seeking to be lead agency on Workforce Funds
	August 27	HIE Advisory Board meeting (state convened)
	Late Summer/ Early Fall	Regional Extension Center guidelines/RFP released by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)
	September 1- 15	State draft of California HIT Strategic Plan released for comment
	September 8	Applications for Workforce RFI due
	September 10	HIE Governance Entity RFI responses due (CHHS)
	September 21	CHHS will choose lead agency for Workforce funds
	September 24	State responds to HIE Gov. Entity RFI applications (CHHS)
	September 24-25	HRSA-funded EHR focused workshop hosted by Redwood Community Health Coalition
	September 30	State releases HIT Strategic Plan (tentative)
	October 5	Workforce grant due to federal government
	December	CMS to release definition of meaningful use (m.u.), comment period to follow
	December	CPCA EHR workgroup to draft comments on m.u. definition
	December	CPCA with California Safety Net Coalition to draft comments on m.u. definition
2010	January	Construction on the California Telehealth Network begins
	Early 2010	EHR Loan Fund (likely CHFFA) to make loans available to eligible providers in California

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January

Medicaid EHR Incentive Funds available to eligible professionals

Resources (linked on website)

CPCA

- Comments RE: RFI- Potential Health Information Exchange Governance Entity (final draft available Monday, August 17 COB)
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